

(copy)

Roxbury Sept. 25, 1876

13

Dear friend May:

I have been not a little worried on hearing, incidentally, that you are or have been seriously troubled with eczema — (I am not sure of the spelling, and cannot find the word in the dictionary) — but I trust you are now quite relieved from it. Externally it is, I believe, a skin affection, accompanied with an intolerable itching and burning, and also local exudation. I remember that your father was for a long time afflicted with it in one of his limbs, and was helped by Dr White, who also delivered me from a bodily ailment, extending throughout, of a similar nature, without suppuration. I take it for granted that you lost no time before consulting Dr White, and therefore hope for the best in your case. I used to describe my own sufferings as like unto the torments of lost souls in perdition, as Calvinistically set forth, obtaining no respite day or night.

Thanks for your clear-sighted and faithful letter in last week's Christian Register, in relation to the outrages perpetrated by the unsubdued Southern rebels upon the colored population in that section. Many of those outrages are of the most shocking character; and, doubtless, they are far more numerous than the gory catalogue obtained from that quarter furnishes. And they are as dastardly, too, as they are murderous. Yet there is not a Democratic journal at the North that does not sneeringly brand any exposure of them as "waving the bloody shirt" — a heartless, mendacious and impudent charge, the bold reiteration of which has cowed many Republican speakers and journals from sounding such notes of alarm and making such expressions of horror as these terrible occurrences demand. Even the Register seems to have felt the influence of it, though certainly not intending to diminish any sympathy for the poor oppressed colored people.

I am still fearing the result of the Presidential election. The whole Southern vote will be secured for Tilden at every cost, and the black man's ballot will either not be cast, or practically made waste paper, notwithstanding

Pres. Grant's disposition of military forces in order to have fair play at the polls. In South Carolina Wade Hampton will be Governor instead of Chamberlain, and a fresh reign of terror inaugurated.

It is true, the recent elections in Maine and Vermont have resulted auspiciously; but Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, California and Oregon, or enough of them to decide the result in favor of Tilden, make the prospect a gloomy one.

I believe I informed you that I returned from my visit to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, last June, with a fresh attack of rheumatism in my right knee. It crippled me for the remainder of the summer, but I am now considerably relieved. I spent a week at Osterville, Cape Cod, with William and his family, and a week at the Glen House with Fanny and her family, but found the mountain air not favorable to my condition.

Mr. Villard will take Fanny and the children to California next month, in consequence of business obligations in Oregon, and to avoid the severity of our winter. They will reside in San Francisco. I shall miss them greatly. Probably Sarah Southwick will help Frank and myself to "keep house".

Warm regards to your dear household.

Your attached friend,

Rev. Samuel May

Leicester,
Mass.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

I send you a Boston Journal, containing a letter from me to a colored soldier. My judgment is not favorable to the Suffrage-Prohibitory-Baker Movement.

Roxbury, Sept. 25. 1875